Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, or claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled) A method of potentiating the anti-growth effects of a type I interferon (IFN) on a target cell population comprising increasing the number of functional interferon alpha receptor 2c (IFNAR2c) receptor chains on the surface of modified cells within the target cell population and then exposing the modified cells to a therapeutically effective amount of a type I IFN.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the number of functional IFNAR2c ~~receptor~~ polypeptide chains on the surface of said modified cells within said target cell population is increased by up-regulation of gene expression of an IFNAR2c gene.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the up-regulation of gene expression of the IFNAR2c gene is accomplished by introducing an exogenous gene encoding the IFNAR2c polypeptide into ~~the~~ said modified cells.

5. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the up-regulation of gene expression of the IFNAR2c gene is accomplished by exposing modified cells of the target cell population to a small molecule which stimulates the promoter of the IFNAR2c gene.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the type I IFN is a type I α -IFN, a type I β-IFN, a type I ω-IFN or a consensus type I IFN.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein the cells of ~~the~~ said target cell population are cells involved in a proliferative cell condition.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said cells involved in a proliferative cell condition are cancer cells.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said cells involved in a proliferative cell condition are smooth muscle cells involved in restenosis.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein at least one exogenous gene encoding an IFNAR2c polypeptide ~~is delivered to~~ is introduced into said modified cells using a viral vector.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said viral vector is a retroviral or adenoviral vector.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein ~~the~~ said anti-growth effects of ~~the~~ said type I IFN on ~~the~~ said target cell population is increased by at least 5%.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein ~~the~~ said anti-growth effects of the type I IFN on said target cell population is increased by at least 10%.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said exogenous gene encoding an IFNAR2c polypeptide and a gene encoding a type I IFN are ~~delivered to the~~ introduced into said modified cells within said target cell population as part of the same viral vector.

15. (withdrawn) A method potentiating the anti-growth effects of an effector molecule on a target cell population comprising tumor cells, comprising increasing the number of functional effector molecule receptors on the surface of modified cells within the target cell population and then exposing the modified cells to a therapeutically effective amount of a the effector molecule.

16. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 15, wherein the effector molecule is a growth factor or an interleukin.

17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 15 wherein the number of effector molecule receptors is increased by the up-regulation of gene expression of a gene encoding the effector molecule receptor.

18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein up-regulation of gene expression of the gene encoding the effector molecule receptor is accomplished by the introduction into the modified cells of an exogenous gene encoding the effector molecule receptor.

19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein up-regulation of gene expression of the gene encoding the effector molecule receptor is accomplished by exposing modified cells of the target cell population to a small molecule which stimulates the promoter of the gene encoding the effector molecule receptor.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 15, wherein the anti-growth effect of the effector molecule on the target cell population is increased by at least 10%.

21. (withdrawn) A method of potentiating the effects of a type I IFN on a target cell population comprising increasing the number of functional IFNARI receptor chains on the surface of modified cells within the target cell population and then exposing the modified cells to a therapeutically effective amount of a type I IFN.

22. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, further comprising introducing an exogenous polynucleotide encoding the IFNAR2c polypeptide into **said** cells **of said target cell population** in culture to form said modified cells.

23. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~1~~ 25, wherein ~~cells are~~ **said target cell population is** human and said IFNAR2c **polypeptide** is human.

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 22, wherein ~~said cells are~~ **said target cell population is** human and said IFNAR2c polypeptide is human.

25. (new) A method of inhibiting cell proliferation in a target cell population, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) increasing the number of functional interferon alpha receptor 2c (IFNAR2c) polypeptide chains on the surface of cells within said target cell population to produce modified cells, wherein anti-growth effects of a type I interferon (IFN) within said modified cells are potentiated and

(b) contacting said modified cells within said target cell population to a therapeutically effective amount of a type I IFN.

26. (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the number of functional IFNAR2c polypeptide chains on the surface of said modified cells within said target cell population is increased by introducing an exogenous gene encoding the IFNAR2c polypeptide into said modified cells.

27. (new) A method of treating a patient suffering from a proliferative cell condition, said method comprising the steps of claim 26.